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CLASSIFICATION SECRET

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

TOPIC Military Information from the Weisswasser Area

EVALUATION See below

PLACE OBTAINED [redacted]

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 3 and 15 to 17 November 1950

25X DATE OBTAINED [redacted]

DATE PREPARED 19 December 1950

25X REFERENCES [redacted]

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 1 - One sketch on ditto

REMARKS

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1. On 3 November 1950, a Soviet tank range was observed near Jerischke, about 13 km north-northeast of Weisswasser (O 52/A 74). Two wooden barracks buildings were located at the southwest corner of the range. According to a local resident, the barracks were poorly furnished and were each occupied by 35 to 40 soldiers. Timber was trucked to the place, allegedly for the construction of more wooden barracks. *
2. Between 15 and 17 November, it was observed that the highway leading from Weisswasser to Bautzen via Nochten and Boxberg was in good condition. The entrance to the main camp was about 3 km east of Nochten. The road to the camp had an asphalt surface and was in good condition. A board fence, 2 meters high and about 1 km long, ran along the camp in a southerly direction. About 1 km west of Nochten, there was another camp of wooden barracks buildings. About 200 meters before the camp entrance, the approach road, which is hardly usable in bad weather, was blocked by a barrier. According to forest workers, both camps were occupied by only a guard unit of about two companies. The whole camp area looked deserted, and only a few soldiers were seen. The population of Nochten expected that troops would move to the camps since large shipments of supplies had arrived there. Ambulance [redacted] was [redacted] entering the camp west of Nochten.
3. It was learned from a resident of Weisswasser that a new troop training grounds would be established near Sprey (O 52/A 73). [redacted] 25X1 several hundred acres of forest were being cut down in this area. Excavation work indicated that buildings were to be constructed. No construction workers were seen, however. **

25X1 [redacted] Comment. The Soviet tank range near Jerischke is reported for the first time. According to its location, the range is not believed to belong to the Weisswasser troop training grounds but is probably used as a special training area or target range by elements of the 9th Mecz Div stationed in neighboring posts. For sketch of the tank range see Annex.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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** [] Comment. The information on the Weisswasser training area was confirmed by other reports from the military posts of Cottbus, Spremberg and Luebben. These reports indicated that the elements of the 9th Iecz Div had returned to their posts in October, upon completion of the summer training at the Weisswasser troop training grounds. [] The information on the construction of new troop quarters at Sprey is considered credible. It indicates that the Weisswasser training area will possibly be more heavily occupied in 1951, perhaps also by Soviet units from Silesia.

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1 Annex: One sketch on ditto.

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